## Exhibit L

## In the Matter Of:

15-cv- 7152 (JMA) (ARL)

NAFTALI AS TRUSTEES OF THE EDTOM TRUST ٧.

NEW YORK DEFERRED EXCHANGE CORP., et al.

## **Depositon of Jeffrey Wechsler**

Thursday, September 5, 2019

## **CONDENSED**



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    UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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    EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
                                                     3
                                                        ORA NAFTALI AND RONI NAFTALI,
                                                          Third-Party Counterclaim Plaintiffs,
    ORA NAFTALI AND RONI NAFTALI,
    AS TRUSTEES OF THE EDTOM TRUST, Civil Action
                              No. 15-cv-7152
                 Plaintiffs,
                                                       NEW YORK DEFERRED EXCHANGE CORP.,
                                  (JMA) (ARL)
                                                    7
                                                            Third-Party Counterclaim Defendants.
    NEW YORK DEFERRED EXCHANGE
    CORP., AND JEFFREY L. WECHSLER
                                                    8
                                                        ORA NAFTALI AND RONI NAFTALI,
                 Defendants.
                                                   10
                                                            Third-Party Cross-Claim Plaintiffs,
                                                                   - v -
                                                   11
    NEW YORK DEFERRED EXCHANGE CORP.,
                                                   12
                                                        JEFFREY L. WECHSLER,
         Counterclaim Plaintiff,
                                                   13
                                                         Third-Party Cross-Claim Defendants.
                                                    14
              - v -
                                                   15 JEFFREY L. WECHSLER,
    ORA NAFTALI AND RONI NAFTALI, AS
                                                   16
    TRUSTEES OF THE EDTOM TRUST.
                                                             Third-Party Plaintiff,
        Counterclaim Defendants.
                                                    17
                                                              - v -
    NEW YORK DEFERRED EXCHANGE CORP.,
                                                    18 JOSEPH TAPLITZKY,
        Third-Party Plaintiff,
                                                   19
                                                        Third-Party Defendant.
    ORA NAFTALI AND RONI NAFTALI,
                                                    2.0
        Third-Party Defendants.
                                                    21
                                                                              September 5, 2019
                                                    22
                                                                              10:19 a.m.
                          September 5, 2019
                                                                   Deposition of JEFFREY L. WECHSLER,
                          10:19 a.m.
                                                        pursuant to Order, at the offices of MILBER
           DEPOSITION OF JEFFREY L. WECHSLER
                                                        MAKRIS PLOUSADIS SEIDEN, 1000 Woodbury Road,
                                                        Woodbury, New York, before Elizabeth
    Reported by:
                                                        Santamaria, a Reporter and Notary Public of
    Elizabeth Santamaria
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                                                     1
   APPEARANCES:
                                                        APPEARANCES (cont'd):
                                                     3
                                                        HINSHAW & CULBERTSON LLP
   KISHNER MILLER HIMES P.C.
                                                         Attorneys for Defendant and
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    Attorneys for Plaintiffs/Counterclaim Defendant
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                                                         Counterclaim Plaintiff/
   Ora Naftali and Roni Naftali
                                                        Third-Party Plaintiff/
        40 Fulton Street - 12th Floor
                                                     7
                                                         Third-Party Counterclaim Defendant
                                                         New York Deferred Exchange Corp.
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        New York, New York
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1 (Pages 1 to 4)

	60		7.0
	69		70
1	J. Wechsler	1	J. Wechsler
2	Q. Did you speak to the buyer's	2	A. If we were doing a 1031, yes.
3	counsel about FIRPTA withholding?	3	Q. Were you doing a 1031 prior to the
4	A. Possibly.	4	date of the closing?
5	Q. But you don't remember	5	A. Prior to the date
6	specifically?	6	MR. SEIDEN: Objection to form.
7	A. Correct.	7	Go ahead.
8	Q. Did you speak to the buyer's	8	A. You don't do a 1031 prior to the
9	counsel about the seller possibly utilizing a	9	date, you do it at the date of the closing.
10	1031 exchange?	10	Q. Were you planning were you
11	A. Possibly.	11	planning to sorry, withdrawn.
12	Q. Did you issue check instructions to	12	Were the Naftalis planning to
13	the buyer's counsel?	13	perform a 1031 exchange as part of this
14	A. Yes.	14	transaction prior to the closing?
15	Q. Do you recall who you requested the	15	A. At the closing.
		1	
16 17	sale proceeds be made payable to?  A. There were numerous checks that	16	Q. Did you discuss it with them prior
		17	to the closing, about utilizing the services
18	would have been issued.	18	of a 1031 exchange company?
19	Q. Would checks be made issued to the	19	A. At the closing.
20	Edtom Trust?	20	Q. You only discussed it at the
21	A. There would have been checks to	21	closing?
22	them. The checks to pay off the bank, checks	22	A. Correct.
23	to others.	23	Q. You never discussed it with them
24	Q. What about to a 1031 exchange	24	prior to the closing?
25	company?	25	A. Possibly, but I don't recall.
	71		72
1	J. Wechsler	1	I. Washalan
			J Wechster
2	O What documents did you prepare for		J. Wechsler O Did the closing start in the
2 3	Q. What documents did you prepare for the closing?	2	Q. Did the closing start in the
3	the closing?	2 3	Q. Did the closing start in the morning?
3 4	the closing?  A. It was in my closing binder,	2 3 4	<ul><li>Q. Did the closing start in the morning?</li><li>A. I don't recall the exact time that</li></ul>
3 4 5	the closing?  A. It was in my closing binder, whatever I prepared. You have my closing	2 3 4 5	<ul><li>Q. Did the closing start in the morning?</li><li>A. I don't recall the exact time that the closing occurred.</li></ul>
3 4 5 6	the closing?  A. It was in my closing binder, whatever I prepared. You have my closing binder.	2 3 4 5 6	<ul><li>Q. Did the closing start in the morning?</li><li>A. I don't recall the exact time that the closing occurred.</li><li>Q. Was the closing the first time you</li></ul>
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	the closing?  A. It was in my closing binder, whatever I prepared. You have my closing binder.  Q. Did you prepare a FIRPTA affidavit?  A. Yes.  Q. You prepared a FIRPTA affidavit?  A. I believe there would have been one in my closing binder. Can we pull my closing binder? I have to see the closing binder.  Q. Did you advise the client to obtain a tax withholding certificate withdrawn.  MR. COHEN: I will take that back.  Thank you.  (Witness handing document.)  Q. I would like to focus your attention to the day of the closing on the sale of the trust's property. Where did the closing take place?  A. Corcoran offices, C-O-R-C-O-R-A-N.  Q. What time did it start?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. Did the closing start in the morning?  A. I don't recall the exact time that the closing occurred.  Q. Was the closing the first time you met the Naftalis in person?  A. Yes.  Q. Was there any discussion about the Naftalis closing via power of attorney?  A. Possibly.  Q. Do you remember discussing it with the Naftalis that they could close via power of attorney?  A. Possibly.  Q. Who was at the closing?  A. Ora Naftali, Roni Naftali. George Bunn, his client was not there. There was a title closer, I don't recall the title closer's name. And Joseph Taplitzky. And there might have been another broker, I don't recall.  Q. Anybody else?

	73		74
1	J. Wechsler	1	J. Wechsler
2	Mr. Wechsler.	2	I don't know.
3	A. And myself. Sorry.	3	Q. Do you remember where Joseph
4	Q. Who did you sit next to at the	4	Taplitzky was sitting?
5	closing?	5	A. No.
6	A. Normally I sit next to my clients.	6	Q. Was he sitting next to Ora Naftali?
7	Q. Did you sit next to Ora and Roni	7	A. I don't recall where he was
8	Naftali at the closing table for this	8	sitting, I don't recall where Ora was sitting.
9	transaction?	9	Q. How did the closing proceed?
10	A. One of them would have sat next to	10	A. Well.
11	me. Usually husband and wife sit next to each	11	Q. What did you discuss with the
12	other and I sit next to one of them.	12	buyer's counsel?
13	Q. Do you remember if you sat next to	13	A. Be more specific.
14	Ora Naftali?	14	Q. During the closing did you have any
15	A. No. Whether it was Ora or Roni	15	conversations with the buyer's counsel?
16	Naftali, I sat next to one of them.	16	A. It was a normal transaction.
17	Q. You don't remember which one?	17	Q. What did you discuss with him?
18	A. I don't see the relevance, but	18	A. We were discussing the transaction.
19	anyway	19	Q. Did you discuss the FIRPTA tax
20	Q. Let me worry about the relevance.	20	withholding?
21	I'm asking the questions.	21	A. We had the FIRPTA form on the
22	Do you remember	22	table.
23	A. I sat in the conference room to do	23	Q. That you prepared?
24	a closing and I sat next to one of my clients.	24	A. That Naftalis signed.
25	Whether it was Roni or Ora that I sat next to,	25	Q. The Naftalis signed a FIRPTA form
	, 		
	75		76
1	J. Wechsler	1	J. Wechsler
2	at the closing table?	2	Q. When you say they agreed, what do
3	A. If it was in my closing binder.	3	you mean?
4	Can I look at my closing binder?	4	A. They decided they wanted to save
5	Q. I'm asking you if they signed a	5	the taxes and so they said they wanted to do
6	FIRPTA form.	6	the 1031. So that was in that was
7	A. I believe, and I said I believe so.	7	specifically even Roni said that in his
8	Q. You said they did?	8	testimony at his deposition.
9	A. I believe they signed a FIRPTA	9	Q. When during the closing was it
10	form.	10	towards the beginning, middle, the end did
11	Q. Did you prepare a FIRPTA form	11	Joseph bring up, as you say, using a 1031
12	FIRPTA affidavit for this transaction?	12	exchange?
13	A. And I said I believe so.	13	A. I don't remember when the
14	Q. Did you discuss with the buyer's	14	conversation occurred but the conversation
15	counsel about a 1031 exchange being part of	15	occurred, we discussed it.
16	this transaction?	16	They decided to do that, then they
17	A. At this transaction Joseph brought	17	gave me back the checks. I spoke to Fritz to
18	up the 1031 discussion at the closing, Joseph	18	make sure it can be done because we were in
19	Taplitzky, to the Naftalis.	19	the middle of a closing and we had to get
20	Q. What did he say to the Naftalis?	20 21	everything done the same day.
21	A. He brought up the idea of doing it.	21	Q. Did you advise the clients to sign
22	I explained how the transaction of a 1031	23	certain documents at the closing?
23	works, and then what happened was subsequently	23	MR. SEIDEN: Objection to form.  A. There is always documents signed at
24 25	like they decided to go forward to do a 1031. They agreed at the closing to do the 1031.	25	A. There is always documents signed at a closing.
25	They agreed at the closing to do the 1031.		a ciosing.

	77		78
1	J. Wechsler	1	J. Wechsler
2	Q. Did you advise them to sign	2	A. Yes.
3	transfer tax returns?	3	Q. Why didn't you prepare them
4	A. Correct.	4	yourself?
5	Q. How did the Naftalis know where to	5	A. Because the abstract company
6	sign their names on the transfer tax returns	6	charges like \$150 to prepare them, and did you
7	for this transaction?	7	ever prepare ACRIS documents? It's
8	A. I would have indicated where they	8	cumbersome. It's easier to have a
9	would sign.	9	professional that's used to doing it.
10	MR. COHEN: I would like to mark	10	Q. Did you review them prior to the
11	Plaintiffs' Exhibit F. It starts with	11	closing table?
12	Bates stamp number JLW000065 and ends	12	A. Yes.
13	with JLW000083.	13	Q. Did you identify any mistakes?
14	(Plaintiffs' Exhibit F, pages Bates	14	A. At the time, prior to the closing
15	stamped JLW000065 to JLW000083, marked for	15	table?
16	identification, as of this date.)	16	Q. When you reviewed it, did you
17	Q. If you would review the document in	17	identify any mistakes?
18	front of you, Mr. Wechsler, and let me know	18	A. At the time?
19	when you are ready for questions.	19	Q. At the time.
20	A. Ready.	20	A. No.
21	Q. Did you prepare these transfer tax	21	Q. Did you ask them to make any
22	returns?	22	changes to the transfer tax returns when they
23	A. I stated earlier I have an abstract	23	prepared them for you?
24	company that would prepare it.	24	A. "They" being?
25	Q. At your direction?	25	Q. The abstract company.
	79		80
1	J. Wechsler	1	J. Wechsler
2	A. No. We needed a we needed the	2	A. Correct.
3	tax ID numbers, which I was always told I was	3	Q. I'm asking you, you did?
4	going to be getting.	4	A. That was a "yes."
5	Q. I would draw your attention to the	5	Q. At the closing table
6	second page of this exhibit, Bates stamp	6	A. I would have asked for the tax ID
7	number JLW000066.	7	numbers because I needed the tax ID numbers.
8	If you look towards the top where	8	It was only subsequent to asking that I
9	it says "Social Security number," below it	9	finally learned that they did not have tax ID
10	it has a series of 9s. Do you see that?	10	numbers, and then I then they then asked me
11	A. Sure. Yes.	11	to apply for tax ID numbers.
12	Q. Did anyone comment on the fact that	12	Q. Did anybody else comment on the
		1	
	the seller's Social Security number was listed	1 13	fact that what was listed here is a series of
13	the seller's Social Security number was listed as all 9s during the closing?	13 14	fact that what was listed here is a series of 9s?
13 14	as all 9s during the closing?	14	9s?
13 14 15	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall	14 15	9s? A. Again, so when you point to "here"
13 14 15 16	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the	14 15 16	9s? A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT
13 14 15 16 17	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the abstract companies prepare these, if they	14 15 16 17	9s? A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT form, the security number filled in with all
13 14 15 16 17 18	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the abstract companies prepare these, if they don't have it they just put in 9s and fill in	14 15 16 17 18	9s? A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT form, the security number filled in with all 9s on page 1 of the RPT. I don't recall who
13 14 15 16 17 18	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the abstract companies prepare these, if they don't have it they just put in 9s and fill in later.	14 15 16 17 18 19	9s?  A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT form, the security number filled in with all 9s on page 1 of the RPT. I don't recall who would have made a comment, but most likely
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the abstract companies prepare these, if they don't have it they just put in 9s and fill in later.  Again, I mentioned to you that I	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	9s?  A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT form, the security number filled in with all 9s on page 1 of the RPT. I don't recall who would have made a comment, but most likely yes.
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the abstract companies prepare these, if they don't have it they just put in 9s and fill in later.  Again, I mentioned to you that I asked Roni and Ora for tax ID numbers, which	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	9s?  A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT form, the security number filled in with all 9s on page 1 of the RPT. I don't recall who would have made a comment, but most likely yes.  Q. If you could turn to the page Bates
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the abstract companies prepare these, if they don't have it they just put in 9s and fill in later.  Again, I mentioned to you that I asked Roni and Ora for tax ID numbers, which they always said they had, and I was hoping to	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	9s? A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT form, the security number filled in with all 9s on page 1 of the RPT. I don't recall who would have made a comment, but most likely yes.  Q. If you could turn to the page Bates stamp numbered JLW000078.
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the abstract companies prepare these, if they don't have it they just put in 9s and fill in later.  Again, I mentioned to you that I asked Roni and Ora for tax ID numbers, which they always said they had, and I was hoping to get the tax ID numbers.	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	9s? A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT form, the security number filled in with all 9s on page 1 of the RPT. I don't recall who would have made a comment, but most likely yes.  Q. If you could turn to the page Bates stamp numbered JLW000078.  A. Yes.
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	as all 9s during the closing?  A. During the closing I don't recall but I know that what happens is when the abstract companies prepare these, if they don't have it they just put in 9s and fill in later.  Again, I mentioned to you that I asked Roni and Ora for tax ID numbers, which they always said they had, and I was hoping to	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	9s? A. Again, so when you point to "here" you're referring to the New York City RPT form, the security number filled in with all 9s on page 1 of the RPT. I don't recall who would have made a comment, but most likely yes.  Q. If you could turn to the page Bates stamp numbered JLW000078.

81 82 1 J. Wechsler 1 J. Wechsler 2 2 resident transferor/seller? Q. When did they tell you that? 3 3 A. Prior to me having the abstract A. The answer would be yes, because company write this form. I wouldn't have 4 basically that's a certification of resident 4 5 transferor and at that time I was under the 5 guessed that address. 6 understanding and belief that they were a 6 Q. Did they send it to you in an 7 resident of 43-UI in the same building for 7 e-mail? which we were selling 42-UI. So they signed 8 8 A. I don't recall if it was an e-mail this page 78 and page 79 also. 9 or a telephone call. That's why you're 9 10 Q. It was your understanding that they 10 referring to this page, certification of being 11 lived in the condominium they were selling? 11 a New York State resident. 12 A. No, I didn't say that. What I 12 When I did this form, I was under 13 stated just now is that -- do you want to read 13 the understanding and belief because they had it back or should I? 43-UI that they were a New York state resident 14 14 15 15 I stated that they resided in 43-UI at that time. 16 and that we were selling 42-UI. On page 1 of 16 Q. Did you see their photo IDs at the 17 the tax return -- transfer tax forms, we have 17 closing? their address being unit 43-UI at 322 West 18 18 A. Yes. 19 57th Street. I was told that was their 19 Q. What type of ID did they provide? 20 20 A. I believe it was Israeli passports address. 21 Q. Who told you that was their 21 at that time. 22 22 Q. Did you think then that the address? 23 23 Naftalis were Israeli citizens? I would have learned that either 24 24 A. Possibly at that time. I know from the Naftalis or their agent, Joseph 25 25 people that have dual citizenships. Taplitzky. 83 84 1 1 J. Wechsler J. Wechsler 2 Q. Did that change your understanding 2 review a document in order to refresh his of the nature of the trust? 3 3 recollection. 4 A. Of the nature of the trust at the 4 A. Do you want me to pull the 5 5 time in October of 2014, no, because I was document? 6 under the understanding and belief that the 6 Q. No, that's fine. 7 trust was a New York trust, New York state 7 A. But your firm has the closing 8 8 trust, as I stated earlier. binder. 9 9 Q. Did you advise the Naftalis to Q. Okay. What else did the Naftalis 10 issue a FIRPTA affidavit at the closing? 10 talk about at the closing table? 11 MR. SEIDEN: Objection to form. 11 A. They were extremely pleasant. 12 A. Okay. We previously discussed that 12 There was pleasantries passed back and forth. It was a very positive atmosphere. 13 and I previously answered that. And I ask, 13 can I see my closing binder? Because I 14 14 They were excited about the sale, 15 believe the answer would be yes, if I could they were excited about the opportunity to do 15 16 look at my closing binder. May I look at it? 16 the 1031, roll over the money, not pay tax on 17 Q. I don't know what you mean by 17 any gain. Other than that, the little 18 "closing binder." 18 pleasantries specifically I don't recall. 19 A. You should know because you would Q. Do you remember them speaking to 19 20 have a copy of the closing binder. 20 each other in Hebrew? Q. I have the documents that are in 21 21 A. Possibly. 22 front of you. If you don't remember, you 22 All their conversations with me 23 don't remember. I am asking you the question. 23 were in English on the telephone. All e-mails You are asking me to show you a document. with me are in English. I don't speak 24 24 25 MR. SEIDEN: He says he needs to 25 conversational Hebrew.

85 86 1 1 J. Wechsler J. Wechsler 2 2 Q. Do you speak a little bit of A. Well, basically they advised me it 3 3 was investment property that was a rental Hebrew? 4 A. I can daven barely, D-A-V-E-N, but 4 real estate property, and which I had already 5 no conversational Hebrew. 5 known because I had a copy of the lease. 6 Q. So you testified earlier that 6 So basically I knew it was a rental 7 7 Joseph Taplitzky brought on for the first time property so it was used for business purposes 8 the Naftalis using a 1031 exchange, correct? 8 so it qualified and at that time then we could 9 9 A. In the closing table, yes. do a 1031. I called Fritz to make sure we 10 Q. At the closing table? 10 could do the 1031 because we were sitting at A. True. 11 11 the closing table. 12 12 Q. When you had the conversation about Q. Did Joseph Taplitzky bring it up to 13 you at any point prior to the closing table 13 the 1031 exchange with Joseph and the Naftalis that the Naftalis would like to use a 1031 were checks already made payable to the trust? 14 14 15 exchange? 15 A. Yes, correct. 16 A. Possibly. I don't recall. 16 Q. What else did you explain to the Naftalis about a 1031 exchange at the closing Q. Who asked you whether the Naftalis 17 17 18 could utilize a 1031 exchange as part of this 18 19 19 A. The process of identifying the transaction? 20 20 property, the process of what would be done MR. SEIDEN: At the closing table? 21 MR. COHEN: At the closing table. 21 with the proceeds, that the proceeds instead 22 A. Joseph brought it up, then I 22 of going to the Edtom Trust would go to the discussed it with Joseph, Ora and Roni 23 exchanger, the 1031 exchange company, and it 23 24 24 would sit there until the time that you close Naftali. 25 Q. What did you say? 25 on the subsequent property. 87 88 1 J. Wechsler 1 J. Wechsler 2 So I explained that all to them and 2 didn't have anything that I would normally prepare to do a 1031. Fritz's office 3 3 I explained to them about then they could --4 it's not that you don't pay income tax. 4 prepares -- the NYDEC prepares all these forms 5 That's a misnomer. It's you're basically 5 that I need that are in the closing binder, of 6 deferring payment of a tax obligation to 6 which you have a copy. 7 New York State and the IRS. You're not paying 7 Q. Did you have any reason to believe 8 the tax on the gain at this juncture. 8 that it was no longer possible to utilize a 9 9 Q. And you advised them that they 1031 exchange as part of the sale transaction? 10 could still perform a 1031 exchange at that 10 MR. SEIDEN: Objection to form. 11 11 A. Hence my phone call to Fritz to 12 A. Yes. Because what I did, I just 12 confirm if I could do it or not, okay? So he told you, I called Fritz from NYDEC -- who is said that I could do it. 13 13 amazing -- and he said, "Yes, you could still 14 14 And it's an irrelevant question perform this," correct. 15 because they didn't go forward even though 15 16 Q. Before calling Fritz, did you tell 16 they identified a property, which was in their 17 them they could perform a 1031 exchange at the 17 depositions. When they gave the deposition, 18 18 they did have -- identify property. They closing? 19 19 A. I said I needed to check with Fritz chose not to move forward. 20 from NYDEC. So I confirmed with him that I 20 So the whole question that you're 21 could still do it. 21 giving me about a 1031 is totally irrelevant 22 Q. Why did you need to check with 22 today because they chose not to go forward. 23 Fritz? 23 That means that then we did have to pay the 24 24 A. Because we're sitting at a closing tax and the taxes had to be paid on a timely 25 table. I didn't have the exchange forms. I 25 basis. The taxes were sent in on April of

89 90 1 J. Wechsler 1 J. Wechsler 2 2 2015 -- April 15th of 2015 to avoid penalty. this day, he's amazing. 3 So the relevance of the 1031, 3 Q. Did you make any -- did you make 4 whether the checks were down on the table or 4 your own independent determination about 5 picked or the form was done, everything was 5 whether the Naftalis and the trust could 6 done that business day. So everything was 6 proceed to utilize a 1031 exchange? 7 7 done on October 10, 2014. A. I reviewed the whole situation with 8 So the questions about the 1031 at 8 Fritz at NYDEC and I went through it in detail 9 this point don't matter because they decided 9 with him and he said -- I slipped out of the 10 not to go forward after they identified a 10 closing to explain it to him and he said yes, property. It was the \$4.2 million property in 11 11 I could do it. 12 the Time Warner Center and they chose not to 12 So he got me the forms. I think it 13 move forward. 13 was Robert maybe in his office. It was either Q. Before you called Fritz, did you 14 14 Robert or Fritz, but he sent me the forms and 15 think about anything that -- withdrawn. 15 I got the Naftalis to sign everything that 16 So you didn't see a reason why they day. I had George Bunn sign the exchange form 16 couldn't perform the process of starting a 17 17 because you need the purchaser to sign the 18 1031 exchange? 18 MR. SEIDEN: Objection to form. 19 19 So George had a power of attorney 20 A. Apparently not, because I confirmed 20 for his client. We gave him back the checks, 21 it with Fritz, who's amazing, at NYDEC and he he gave me new checks. And we had George 21 22 does many 1031s. 22 sign, George Bunn sign the form. And 23 Q. So you relied upon what he told 23 everything was done on the 10th, the date of 24 you? 24 the closing. 25 A. He's an expert. He's amazing. To 25 But again it's irrelevant because 91 92 1 J. Wechsler 1 J. Wechsler 2 2 the Naftalis decided not to move forward in a Q. Have you ever received a referral 3 3 timely manner. They chose not to do the 1031 fee from NYDEC for referring business to them? 4 4 unilaterally on their own. A. Once many years ago, a few hundred 5 5 Q. Why did you call Fritz? Why did dollars. I have done work with NYDEC before 6 you call NYDEC? 6 and after this transaction and no other 7 A. Because they are great at doing 7 referral fee. It was a one-time thing, a few 8 8 1031 exchanges. hundred dollars, that was it. 9 9 Q. You had worked with them in the Q. Did you expect a referral fee on 10 past prior to the closing in October 2014? 10 this transaction? A. Yes. 11 11 A. No, of course not. 12 Q. How many times did you work with 12 Q. You testified earlier that you 13 stepped outside of the room where the closing them in the past, prior to this date? 13 was taking place to call Fritz, correct? 14 A. Numerous times. 14 15 15 O. More than five? A. Yes. 16 A. I don't recall the number, but 16 Q. What did you ask him on your call? 17 numerous times. 17 A. What I already told you. Q. More than ten? 18 Q. How did you start the call? 18 A. I just said I don't recall the "Hi." He knows me. 19 19 20 number. Don't pigeonhole me. 20 Q. He knows you on a first name basis? 21 Q. So you didn't think to call any 21 A. 22 other 1031 exchange companies? 22 Q. Who else was on the phone call? 23 A. They are an expert in the field. 23 It would have been myself and A. 24 So no? 24 Fritz. Q. 25 A. The answer is "no." 25 Anybody else? Q.

93 94 1 1 J. Wechsler J. Wechsler 2 A. No. 2 he could confirm whether or not I could do it. 3 3 Was Rob on the call? Q. Did you tell him the trustees were Q. 4 A. No. 4 foreigners? 5 5 MR. SEIDEN: Objection to form. Q. Did Fritz ask you for any 6 information during your phone call? 6 A. I gave him the information that I 7 7 A. Yes. We exchanged a lot of had. 8 8 Q. Did you tell him that checks had information. 9 9 been cut into -- payable to the Edtom Trust? Q. What information did you exchange? A. I told him the whole situation with 10 10 Correct. the contract, that we are sitting at a closing 11 You did tell him that? 11 Q. 12 12 table, the sale was in process, the closing A. Yes 13 was occurring. I told him the whole thing of 13 Q. And Fritz told you that the paying off a lender. You know, I told him, "I 14 14 Naftalis could still perform a valid 1031 15 have the clients sitting here." I told him 15 exchange? 16 it's a trust. I went through everything with 16 MR. FERLAZZO: Objection. 17 A. That was my understanding and 17 18 I had to send him copies of the 18 belief, correct. 19 documents. So I'm sitting in Corcoran's 19 Q. And you agreed with him? 20 office, that was Joseph's office. So I don't 20 A. Restate your question. 21 recall if I asked, and I believe I did quite 21 Q. Did you agree with -- withdrawn. 22 possibly but I don't recall exactly, but I 22 A. Okay. 23 probably would have had Joseph just scan 23 Q. After speaking to him you agreed -documents or just off of my phone I sent him 24 you agreed that the Naftalis could perform a 24 25 documents I had saved so he could see it, so 25 valid 1031 exchange? 95 96 1 J. Wechsler 1 J. Wechsler 2 2 MR. SEIDEN: Objection to form. that the Naftalis wanted to proceed with a A. When you say "him"? 3 1031 exchange at the closing? 3 A. With George Bunn, yes. 4 Q. Fritz. 4 5 Q. You did? You told him? 5 A. Correct, yes. 6 Q. How did you end the call? 6 A. Yes, "him" being George Bunn who 7 A. That there was probably a few calls 7 was the purchaser's attorney. 8 because then I spoke to Naftali. They 8 Q. Did he have anything to say in 9 response? 9 confirmed they wanted to move forward. So I 10 probably -- probably would have called Fritz 10 A. He was super-nice. He was very back possibly. There might have been another helpful, "whatever you need to get done." And 11 11 12 call to say, "Yes, we will go forward," and 12 he was willing to sign the 1031 exchange that I need the forms to do the 1031 that are 13 forms, switch out checks, whatever we needed 13 14 14 in my closing package which you have. to do. 15 Q. So you told the Naftalis about your MR. COHEN: I would like to 15 16 initial conversation with Fritz? 16 introduce the next exhibit which is being 17 17 marked as Plaintiffs' G. It starts with 18 Q. And they told you they wanted to go 18 Bates stamp number Naftali-00011 and ends forward with the 1031 exchange? 19 on Naftali-00017. 19 20 20 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit G, pages Bates A. Yes. 21 stamped NAFTALI-00011 to NAFTALI-00017, 21 Q. Did you -- did you -- after these 22 conversations, did you discuss performing a 22 marked for identification, as of this date.) 23 1031 exchange with the title closer? 23 Q. If you would review the document 24 that's in front of you and let me know when 24 I'll withdraw. 25 25 Did you inform the buyer's counsel you're ready for questions, Mr. Wechsler.

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	97		98
1	J. Wechsler	1	J. Wechsler
2	(Recess taken 12:10 p.m.)	2	Q. We are missing checks?
3	(Resumed at 12:27 p.m.)	3	A. You don't have all the checks here.
4	Q. Mr. Wechsler, have you reviewed	4	Q. What checks are missing?
5	Plaintiffs' G?	5	A. The checks to NYDEC.
6	A. Yes. And there's a duplicate check	6	Q. The checks to NYDEC were issued at
7	I just want you to note on the record, on	7	the closing table?
8	page 14 and page 17. It's photocopied twice.	8	A. They were issued subsequent to the
9	Q. Do you recognize these checks?	9	closing table because then we adjourned so we
10	A. Yes.	10	could finish the 1031 exchange that I
11	Q. What do you recognize these checks	11	explained to you earlier because we needed to
12	to be?	12	get the forms.
13	A. These were checks contract	13	So we adjourned, and we needed to
14	deposit check was the first one on page	14	get the forms so I could have George sign it
15	Naftali-00011. There was a contract deposit	15	so I can have the client sign them and then to
16	for 390.	16	exchange the checks.
17	Q. Were these checks that were issued	17	Q. You say that the closing was
18	at the closing?	18	adjourned. Did you take a copy of the deed
19	A. Yes.	19	from the closing table?
20	The first one was not, that's why I	20	A. No. The title closer held it in
21	referenced that.	21	escrow.
22	Q. Okay. So the closing ended,	22	Q. Did you have an escrow agreement
23	transaction was closed. Everyone left the	23	with the title closer?
24	closing table?	24	A. No. It's just a verbal
25	A. Yes, but you are missing checks.	25	understanding, holding it.
	99		100
1	I W 1 . 1	1	I W1-1
1 2	J. Wechsler	1	J. Wechsler
	Q. Did you issue any e-mails	2 3	took the checks probably and gave them back to
3 4	adjourning the closing?  A. No. We're all sitting there. It	4	me.
5	was a little more informal than what you're	5	Q. Do you know where they went after the closing?
6	saying. No.	6	A. I have no idea.
7	Q. Is there any document to evidence	7	Q. Did they leave with Joseph
ρ ,	an adjournment of the closing?	8	Taplitzky?
9	A. The evidence is that we have checks	9	A. I doubt it. It was his office so I
10	that you don't have in this package that your	10	don't think he left with them, but possibly.
11	firm has and it was part of my closing package	11	Who knows? I know that they have a close
12	and your firm has it. And you've kept those	12	relationship, or had.
13	out. So similar to your Exhibit B, where you	13	Q. What did you do when you left the
14	put in extra W-7s that were not part of that	14	closing? Where did you go?
15	e-mail, now you're leaving checks out on this	15	A. I went back to my office.
16	attachment.	16	MR. COHEN: If I could take back
17	Q. Did the Naftalis leave with checks	17	Plaintiffs' G from you, please.
18	in their hand from the closing table?	18	(Witness handing document.)
19	A. Probably yes, they left with the	19	Q. When you go back to your office
20	checks, and then I got them back when we got	20	after the closing, did you copy the checks
21	the forms to sign for NYDEC.	21	from the closing? Did you make copies of the
22	Q. Did you see them leave with the	22	checks?
23	checks in their hand?	23	A. The checks in your last exhibit?
	A. I don't recall, but most likely	24	Q. No, I'm just saying
24 25	A. I don't recall, but most likely yes, probably they left the checks they	25	<ul><li>Q. No, I'm just saying</li><li>What did you do when you got back</li></ul>

265 266 1 J. Wechsler 1 J. Wechsler 2 2 Q. When you refer to doing problem; is that right? 3 transactions with NYDEC, are you referring to 3 A. Correct. Q. When did you first see that as a 4 1031 exchanges? 4 5 A. I apologize. Yes, 1031 exchanges. 5 problem? 6 My client was the seller of a transaction and 6 A. Early on I was asking for taxpayer different transactions, and we would park the 7 ID numbers and that was today I think in 7 8 money with NYDEC. 8 Exhibit B, I think. 9 9 Q. Can you approximate how many 1031 And so that was at the very 10 exchange transactions you have done involving 10 beginning, before the contract was even NYDEC? written, I was asking for taxpayer ID numbers. 11 11 12 A. NYDEC? No. I wouldn't know 12 And in Exhibit B, that's where Joseph said 13 because I've been doing real estate 13 that he would be providing it to me. transactions since 1998, so I can't give you a 14 14 Q. But do you recall the general time 15 15 number. frame when you thought the fact that you were 16 Q. Did the Naftalis ever tell you that 16 not being provided with a tax identification Mr. Taplitzky was their agent? 17 number was a problem? 17 18 A. Did they use the word "agent"? 18 A. Correct. And then basically they They referred to him as "just go to Joseph 19 kept saying they would have it for the closing 19 20 20 Taplitzky to get" what he needed all the time. and I didn't get it. So then when they had 21 So they always used him as the point person. 21 prepared -- when I had the abstract company 22 Q. I believe you testified earlier 22 prepare the ACRIS docs, they would prepare it that Mr. Taplitzky told you he would get you 23 23 just with all 9s and they would prepare it 24 the tax identification number for the trust 24 subsequently when they would give me the ID 25 and you did not get it and you saw that as a 25 number which I thought they had. 267 268 1 1 J. Wechsler J. Wechsler 2 Q. I believe you testified earlier 2 them, which basically when I read through the 3 3 that you thought the Naftalis were using the tax returns which we got just prior to the 4 other unit, I think it was 43-U, as a 4 depositions. 5 5 residence; is that right? And if you read it, they struck out 6 A. In the same building, correct, yes. 6 a lot of things, but there was 43-UI in there 7 Q. Do you recall how you came to have 7 as rental income, and that was the first time 8 8 that I saw 43-U was rental property, was the that understanding? 9 9 A. Through Joseph and also through tax returns and they confirmed that during the 10 Naftalis, because they said that they were 10 depositions. 11 using the unit. 11 So it was the tax returns which we 12 Q. Was that an understanding you had 12 got, I don't know, maybe a week prior 13 prior to the closing? 13 approximately to their depositions. 14 14 Q. Now, again, I believe you testified A. Correct. Q. Do you recall if there came a point 15 earlier that at the closing you stepped out to 15 16 when you learned that they were not using unit 16 call Mr. Trinklein. Is that right? 17 43-U as a residence? 17 A. Yes. 18 18 Q. Do you recall approximately how A. Yes. 19 19 Q. When was that? And again, general long that call took? 20 time frame is fine if you can't remember 20 A. Seven minutes. I explained the 21 specifics. 21 whole situation to him, which I mentioned 22 A. Ora and Roni Naftali's depositions. 22 earlier about that we are in the process of a 23 That's when I learned that that was used as 23 closing, can this be done? And I walked him 24 24 through everything. So -rental property. And also then, and which was 25 supported by the tax returns that we got from 25 Q. When you say you walked him through

269 270 1 1 J. Wechsler J. Wechsler 2 everything, what do you mean? 2 A. The answer would be yes, because 3 3 A. That we are physically sitting at a basically they were bank checks and George's 4 closing, that the seller is a trust. 4 check was actually dated on October 9th, and 5 So I explained those items to him. 5 he went to Citibank for his escrow account. 6 I told him it's a condo. I told him -- I gave 6 And mine was probably dated the 10th because I 7 7 him numbers. So I knew what I was talking usually try and do it the same day. But since 8 about, that I was paying off a mortgage at the 8 it was a morning closing, I might have done it 9 on the 9th. closing table. So he had some sort of idea of 9 10 how much I was going to be transferring in to 10 Q. Had any of the checks that were 11 do a 1031 exchange. 11 payable to the trust been handed over to the 12 Q. Do you recall anything else you 12 Naftalis prior to your leaving to make the 13 told him? 13 call to Mr. Trinklein? 14 A. No. What we talked about was about 14 A. They were doubtful prior to me 15 getting the documents and getting everything 15 making the phone call because basically the 16 done for October 10th. 16 checks were sitting on the table and the title 17 Q. Do you recall any questions he company -- title closer would have had to make 17 18 asked you? 18 copies. And the closing wasn't complete, so I wouldn't have handed checks to a client until 19 A. Not specific questions. We were 19 20 just -- we went through the whole transaction 20 closing is -- you know, like toward the end. 21 and where I was, and that I was at the closing 21 Q. During your call with Mr. Trinklein 22 and they decided that. 22 when you had stepped out at the closing, did 23 Q. Prior to your stepping out at the 23 you tell him the checks had been cut? 24 closing to call Mr. Trinklein, had the checks 24 A. Yes. So I had to disclose 25 been cut? 25 everything to him. 271 272 J. Wechsler 1 J. Wechsler 1 2 2 So I mean we were working on the during those calls? A. Obtaining the documents to do a 3 3 same team to try and facilitate a 1031 for a client. So he has to know everything. He has 4 4 1031 exchange and getting them executed that 5 5 to know I'm at the closing, he has to know I day. That was pretty much it. 6 have the deed, there is checks on the table. 6 Q. On the 10th did you provide any 7 7 documents to Mr. Trinklein or anyone else at I have to tell him everything. 8 Q. Did you tell him the checks were 8 9 payable to do the trust? 9 A. They probably would have been 10 I don't know if I said trust or 10 faxed. Or, I'm sorry, faxed or e-mails from 11 11 client, but yeah. my office. But the originals were going to be 12 Q. What, if anything, did he say in 12 FedEx'd. 13 13 MR. FERLAZZO: Let's mark this as response to that? A. We talked about exchanging the Defendants' Exhibit 33, please. 14 14 15 15 checks. (Defendants' Exhibit 33, pages Bates 16 Q. I believe you think you had other 16 stamped JWL000905 to JWL000922, marked for calls with Mr. Trinklein during the course of 17 17 identification, as of this date.) 18 the day on October 10, 2014. 18 Q. Mr. Wechsler, I ask you to take a 19 A. Yes. 19 look at what we have marked as Defendants' 20 Do you recall approximately how Q. 20 Exhibit 33. It is an e-mail dated October 10, 21 many? 21 2014 with attachment. The document bears the 22 A. No. It was at least one call, 22 Bates stamps JWL-905 to -922. 23 maybe two calls, and it might have been with 23 Could you just let me know after 24 him or with Rob at his office. 24 you've had a chance to take a look at it. 25 Q. Do you recall what was discussed 25 A. Ready.